



To access Calgary Public Library databases: open browser to the Library home page and select Calgary Public Library databases. Type in your Calgary Public Library code from the library card and enter your PIN number in appropriate spaces.

Several of these databases are hosted by EBSCO, are very easy to use and can limit searches to full text and peer-review if desired. Other databases are hosted by Wilson Web. These have the advantage of being able to export the results of a search in either MLA or APA format. The Thomson Gale (“Infotrac”) search interface can restrict results to full text, but option is only available when using the advanced search engine.

### General

Thomson Gale PowerSearch (Infotrac)

Magazines, news, e-books, encyclopedias, refereed journals, speeches and podcasts.

**Probably the best database to start a search. Very wide subject coverage, up to date and a lot of full text articles**

Gale Virtual Reference Library (Infotrac)

60 encyclopedias with one search.

**Excellent resource with very wide subject coverage. Particularly useful for religious information not easily found in other resources.**

One-Step Search

5 of the most popular magazine databases, World Book Encyclopedia and the Library Catalogue.

**Limited information, not accessible from outside of CPL, rather use Thomson Gale Power Search or Gale Virtual.**

Student Research Center (EBSCO)

Magazines, newspapers, biographies, country reports, film and video at different reading levels.

**Poor quality search options, but standard of articles covers high school requirements well.**

Academic Search Elite (EBSCO)

Full text articles for 2,050 magazines, on many areas of college or university study, dating back to 1985.

**Very wide subject mix, some articles useful at high school level.**

Expanded Academic ASAP (Infotrac)

1,900 full-text magazines and 3,500 indexed magazines in the social sciences, humanities, science and technology, national news, general interest, newswires, and The New York Times on advertising, microbiology, history and women's studies.

**Useful mix of academic levels – easy to use**

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60 encyclopedias with one search.

**Excellent resource with very wide subject coverage. Particularly useful for religious information not easily found in other resources.**

General Reference Center Gold (Infotrac)

Full-text articles from general interest and business magazines, newspapers, and reference books, with information about current events, popular culture, the arts and sciences.

**Good coverage of general interest magazines.**

MasterFILE Premier (EBSCO)

Full text for over 2,000 magazines back to 1975, covering popular subjects. Over 350 full text reference books, 82,000 biographies, 91,000 primary source documents and an Image Collection of 107,000 photos, maps and flags.

**Very good coverage. First choice for magazine articles.**

Discovering Collection (Infotrac)

Use to research for homework, class assignments, papers and projects in Literature, History, Biography, Science and Social Studies.

**Information is useful to students in lower grades. Screen layout is frustrating.**

## **Science/Social science**

Computer Database (Infotrac)

Full-text and illustrated news, reviews and research for high tech products, hardware, software, electronics, robotics, telecommunications, multimedia, technology.

**Excellent resource covers very large number of difficult to find computer magazines**

Applied Science & Technology Full Text (Wilson Web)

Full text, graphs, charts, diagrams, photos, and illustrations, subject magazines.

**Best there is.**

Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection

500 full text magazines, mostly peer-reviewed, covering emotional and behavioral characteristics, psychiatry, psychology, mental processes, anthropology, observational and experimental methods.

**Academic level sometimes too high.**

SocINDEX with Full Text (EBSCO)

Full text for over 300 magazines, 545 books and 6,601 conference papers. Focuses on sociology research useful for students in high school and undergraduate programs.

**Good resource – especially for the lower grades.**

### **Literature/Art/Music**

Short Story Index (Wilson Web)

More than 84,000 stories and the full text of more than 1,600 stories from book collections and magazines.

**Good resource**

Grove Music Online

Over 3000 links to related sites, sound archives and illustrations.

**Excellent coverage, easy interface.**

Fiction Catalog (Wilson Web)

Descriptions of authors in literary and popular fiction, including almost all genres.

**Limited coverage and alternatives are available.**

Literature Resource Center (Infotrac)

120,000 author biographies, 3,000 author portraits, and 415,000 full-text magazine articles. Includes literary criticism, critical essays, plot summaries. Nearly one million full-text pieces of literature, with citations, biographies, overviews and images.

**Good coverage.**

Art Full Text (Wilson Web)

Art history, artists, new artists, contemporary art, exhibition reviews

**Good coverage.**

Art Museum Gallery (Wilson Web)

Images and multimedia from museums from 3000 B.C. to the present

**Excellent source for pictures.**

Play Index (Wilson Web)

Dramas, comedies, monologues, one-act plays, classic and historical plays, radio and television plays written in or translated into English and published 1949 to the present. Includes plot summary, musical, set and scenery requirements plus links to full text of plays available on the web.

**Very narrow focus, but with very comprehensive coverage**

NoveList (EBSCO)

Use to find novels about particular themes, relationships, geographic areas or time periods, or review award winning novels.

**Gimmicky – unlikely students will find much use for it.**

Canadian Literary Centre (EBSCO)

Canadian book reviews, author biographies, essays and literary criticism.

**Background use only.**

## **Careers**

Choices Explorer

Instant access to over 900 career profiles, 330 post-secondary programs, 200 career videos and much more.

**Database not available from outside CPL.**

Learning Express

Interactive practice tests and tutorials on reading, writing and math skills, college entrance, cosmetology, elementary, middle school and high school skills improvement, EMS, firefighter, GED (high school graduation), graduate school entrance, job search, resume and interviewing skills, nursing aide, teaching, technical and career college skills and TEOFL.

**Resources available through the Students Resources and the Library Resources links on the Rundle College High School page are better.**

## **Health and Wellness**

Alt-Healthwatch (EBSCO)

Full text access to 150 magazines for all subjects in complementary and alternative medicine.

**Not as effective as Medline.**

Clinical Pharmacology (EBSCO)

Information for all U.S. prescription drugs, herbal and nutritional supplements.

**Very effective, but most articles are too advanced for high school students**

Health and Wellness Resource Center (Infotrac)

Full-text for all levels of health research about fitness, pregnancy, medicine, nutrition, diseases, public health, occupational health and safety, alcohol and drug abuse and prescription drugs.

**Nice interface, easy to tailor searches**

Health Source: Consumer Edition (EBSCO)

300 full text consumer health magazines, 1,000 health-related pamphlets and 135 health reference books

**Mix of academic levels, some articles useful**

Health Source: Nursing and Academic Edition (EBSCO)

More than 550 full text magazines with abstracts and indexing for over 800 magazines.

**Complementary to Health and Wellness Resource Center. It isn't necessary to use both.**

MEDLINE (EBSCO)

Full text articles from over 1700 magazines and abstracts from another 4,600 current magazines covering medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, the U.S. health care system, and pre-clinical sciences.

**The biggest and best, but most articles focus on the post-secondary student.**

## **Encyclopaedias/Dictionaries**

Britannica Online

Most comprehensive online encyclopaedia. Includes recommended websites, an interactive atlas and interactive timelines.

**Biggest of all encyclopaedias. Difficult interface makes it frustrating to use.**

Oxford English Dictionary

Meaning, history, and pronunciation of over 500,000 words, both present and past from across the English-speaking world. It shows the origin of words, different ways to spell them and how to say words using the International Phonetic Alphabet.

**Biggest English dictionary – difficult interface.**

Canadian Encyclopedia

Topics from the Canadian Encyclopedia (in English and French), text of the Junior Encyclopedia of Canada (in English only), feature articles, activities and an extensive timeline of Canadian and world events.

**Portal to Canadian Encyclopaedia, Youth Encyclopaedia, Encyclopaedia of Music in Canada and MacLeans magazine. Essential source for Canadian information.**

World Book Encyclopedia Online

Articles, maps, pictures, sounds and video for students Grade 4-12 and teachers. Sound and video clips. Includes the Spanish Enciclopedia Estudiantil Hallazgos.

**Cluttered interface, but outstanding information source. More than just an encyclopaedia.**

## **Canada**

Canada Info Desk

Quick reference guide to Canada. Access to thousands of organizations, contacts, facts and figures about Canadian business, government and society.

**Difficult to use, cluttered interface.**

Canadian Newsstand / Canadian Business & Current Affairs (CBCA) / Canadian Business & Current Affairs Education (Proquest)

Full text of over 190 Canadian newspapers (1 week delay) and magazines, full text of the Calgary Herald back to December 1988.

**Rather use Newspaper Direct Press Display.**

Canadian Literary Centre (EBSCO)

Canadian book reviews, author biographies, essays and literary criticism.

**Background use only.**

Canadian Reference Centre (EBSCO)

Full text Canadian newspapers, magazines, newswires, and reference books with international (U.S. and U.K.) magazines covering Canadian topics

**Very useful background information – excellent source of scarce information.**

CBCA Full Text Education (combined with Canadian Newsstand) (Proquest)  
Canadian information in the field of education. Full text articles aimed at teachers, educational researchers and administrators. 400 journals covered back to the 1970's.  
**Not appropriate for students.**

Canadian Encyclopedia  
Topics from the Canadian Encyclopedia (in English and French), text of the Junior Encyclopedia of Canada (in English only), feature articles, activities and an extensive timeline of Canadian and world events.

**Portal to Canadian Encyclopaedia, Youth Encyclopaedia, Encyclopaedia of Music in Canada and MacLeans magazine. Essential source for Canadian information.**

CPI.Q (Canadian Periodical Index) (Infotrac)  
650 Canadian and international magazines. Indexes articles from 1977 to present and displays full text articles from 1983 to present.  
**Background information**

Dictionary of Canadian Biography  
Information about Canadians who lived from 1000 A.D. to 1920 in English and French.  
**Outstanding resource for the period – no indication on whether an update will be released.**

Early Canadiana Online  
Full text of historical Canadian published writings.  
**Limited use, the really useful part of the database is limited to ECO subscribers**

Globe and Mail: Canada's Heritage from 1844  
Electronic newspaper archive of The Globe from June 1844 to The Globe and Mail until December 1999. Coverage includes all stories and images  
**Very poor search options, cluttered presentation.**

Toronto Star Pages From the Past  
Complete text and images in the Toronto Star newspaper 1894 - 2002 covering Canadian and world events, politics, business and finance, history, births and deaths, advertisements, photos.  
**Easy to use, useful background material – use in preference to Globe and Mail or stories after 1894**

Biography/History  
Heritage Quest Online  
Searchable images of U.S. Federal Census records 1790 - 1930, compiled genealogies and local histories, covering genealogy and local history magazines in English and French Canada since 1800.  
**Well designed search interface, options for print and download are useful**

Ancestry Library Edition

Information of interest to family history researchers, covering the United States, Canada and the UK.

**Outstanding coverage – terrible search interface.**

Dictionary of Canadian Biography

Information about Canadians who lived from 1000 A.D. to 1920 in English and French.

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**Very poor search options, cluttered presentation**

Times of London Digital Archive 1785 – 1985

People, major historical events, obituaries, advertising, classifieds, book reviews, photos, crosswords, parliamentary reporting, and editorials.

**Older articles are difficult to read, but outstanding resource for “at the time” coverage of events.**

Toronto Star Pages From the Past

Complete text and images in the Toronto Star newspaper 1894 - 2002 covering Canadian and world events, politics, business and finance, history, births and deaths, advertisements, photos.

**Easy to use, useful background material – where possible use before Globe and Mail.**

## **Newspapers**

Newspaper Direct Press Display

Today's newspapers (over 230) as soon as the edition is available from around the world in full-color, full-page format English and several languages. Includes all articles, pictures, advertisements, classifieds, notices. Newspapers available back 60 days Same day access to newspapers such as the Calgary Herald and the Globe and Mail newspaper.

**Confusing interface, but useful for background information and can search other than English newspapers. Better than Canadian Newsstand**

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Complete text and images in the Toronto Star newspaper 1894 - 2002 covering Canadian and world events, politics, business, history, births and deaths, advertisements, photos.

**Easy to use, useful background material – use in preference to Globe and Mail or stories after 1894**

Canadian Newsstand / Canadian Business & Current Affairs (CBCA) / Canadian Business & Current Affairs Education (Proquest)

Full text of over 190 Canadian newspapers (1 week delay) and magazines, full text of the Calgary Herald back to December 1988.

**The 1 week delay makes the resource frustrating. Rather use Newspaper Direct Press Display for recent articles.**